



Connecticut Chiropractic Association

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March 16, 2018

Re: *H.B. No. 5291 An Act Concerning Access to Information Regarding the Safety of Sports Helmets

Senator Gerratana, Senator Somers, Representative Steinberg and members of the Public Health Committee,

My name is Dr. Richard Duenas and I am the president of the Connecticut Chiropractic Association. The Connecticut Chiropractic Association commends you for remaining diligent on assuring good health and safety for athletes of all ages.

The stated purpose of this bill is to provide consumers with access to information regarding the safety of sports helmets. This is very helpful for the consumer to select a product of high quality that may help guard against head injury and also help raise the consciousness of parents on the importance of head and brain health.

We recognize that while there is great interest to assure consumer access to vital information on helmets that help protect against head injury, we believe intramural, interscholastic and organized youth athletes should also have assurance they will be able to access a chiropractic physician for diagnostic and prognostic services to determine when the concussed athlete may return to play. We also submit it would be most helpful in a team spirited way to also add a representative of the chiropractic profession to the group of professionals that write concussion policy for intramural and interscholastic athletics. We respectfully submit the following language to this bill to help assure individual liberties in the concussion laws:

For Section 10-149b of the general statutes:

We suggest this revision as it establishes a balanced and comprehensive approach toward forming public health policy:

(b) (1) The State Board of Education, in consultation with (A) the Commissioner of Public Health, (B) the governing authority for intramural and interscholastic athletics, (C) an appropriate organization representing licensed athletic trainers, ~~and~~ (D) an organization representing county medical associations, **and (E) an organization representing the chiropractic profession in Connecticut**, shall develop or approve a training course regarding concussions. Such training course shall include, but not be limited to, (i) the recognition of the symptoms of a concussion, (ii) the means of obtaining proper medical treatment for a person suspected of having a concussion, and (iii) the nature and risk of concussions, including the danger of continuing to engage in athletic activity after sustaining a concussion and the proper method of allowing a student athlete who has sustained a concussion to return to athletic activity.

For Section 10-149c of the general statutes

We suggest this revision as it restores the liberty of an individual, with their parents/guardians, to select a chiropractic physician for their health care need in determining return to play after they sustained a concussion:

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(c) For purposes of this section, "licensed health care professional" means a physician licensed pursuant to chapter 370, **a chiropractic physician licensed pursuant to chapter 372**, a physician assistant licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378 or an athletic trainer licensed pursuant to chapter 375a.

Thank you for considering our position.

Sincerely yours,



Richard Duenas, D.C.
President